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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**January 20, 2003**

### **Border Patrol Agents Find Missing Toddler in Sand Dunes**

The Yuma Border Patrol BORSTAR team was called into action yesterday afternoon, to look for a five year old boy who disappeared from his family's campsite in the Imperial Sand Dunes, about ten miles west of Andrade, California. The toddler was riding an ATV at the time of his disappearance.

Just before 1 PM, a distressed family called the Imperial County Sheriff's Department about their child's disappearance. The sheriff's department contacted the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Border Patrol to find the child, a five-year-old boy. The BORSTAR team was working in the area and responded immediately.

BORSTAR agents began tracking the tire tracks from the ATV while the Border Patrol Helicopter hovered overhead. As the agents followed the tracks, the helicopter moved forward looking for the child. The agents continued to point the helicopter in the direction the tracks were going, making appropriate adjustments when the tracks veered another direction.

Around 2 PM, the pilot spotted the youngster on his ATV near the railroad tracks at Clyde Siding, approximately seven miles from his family's campsite. The pilot landed his helicopter while BORSTAR agents moved to the scene. The child was in good health and good spirits when the agents approached. He was placed on the helicopter along with his ATV and taken to his family campsite. An Imperial County Sheriff Deputy was on scene to verify identification of the child and to speak with the parents.

**~ USBP ~**